Russell House St. Michaels private

The Russell house is a relatively well preserved Victorian period dwelling with an original porch, doors, windows and interior woodwork. The center cross gable is lighted by a typical Gothic arched window. This modest center hall, single-pile house is a common form for the third quarter of the nineteenth century, and it is found repeatedly throughout St. Michaels. Like many other houses from the same era, the Russell house is a good example with simple period details which contributes to the overall significance of East Chestnut Street as well as the town.

The chain of title for the Russell house indicates a structure was erected shortly after Jasper Y. Tarr bought part of Lot 58 for \$50 from Oliver and Rachel Fairbank in 1872 (78/288). Three years later Jasper Tarr sold the same property to Thomas L. Dawson for \$500, which strongly suggests the improvment of the lot between 1872 and 1875 (207/149). Marion and Virginia Russell acquired the house and lot in 1963 from the estate of Owen C. Blades (390/40).

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. 2105495504

1. Name	(indicate pre	ferred name)		
historic Jaspar	Y Tarr Louse			
and/or common R	ussell House			
2. Locati	on			
street & number 21	5 East Chestnut	Street	_	not for publication
city, town St. Mic	haels	vicinity of	congressional district	First
state Marylar	ıd	county	Talbot	
3. Classif	fication			
district building(s)	nership public private both lic Acquisition in process being considered not applicable	Status _X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owner	of Proper	ty (give names a	nd mailing addresse	s of <u>all</u> owners)
name Fred D. Ut	terback c/o G	reat Falls Realty		<u>.</u>
street & number 11	007 Georgetown	Pike	telephone no) .:
city, town Great	Falls	state	and zip code VA	22066
5. Location	on of Lega	l Description	on	
courthouse, registry o	f deeds, etc. Talbot	County Clerk of	Court	liber 390
street & number ${ m T}\epsilon$	albot County Cou	ırthouse		folio 40
city, town Easton	·		state	MD 21601
6. Repres	entation i	n Existing	Historical Surv	
title	ż			
date			federal state	countylocal
epository for survey	records			
city, town			state	

7. Description

Survey No. T-578

 Condition
 Check one
 Check one

 ____excellent
 ____deteriorated
 ____unaltered
 ____x original site

 ____X good
 ____ruins
 ____x altered
 ____moved
 date of move

 ____fair
 ____unexposed

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Russell house description

The Russell house, known historically as the Jasper Y Tarr house, is located at 215 East Chestnut Street in St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland. The c. 1872 two-and-a-half story cross-gabled frame house faces south with the principal gable running on an east/west axis.

Supported by a minimal brick pier foundation, the center hall house is sheathed with asbestos siding and covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. A two-story two-bay by one-room service wing extends to the rear, while a flat roofed living room addition has been added to the rear.

The south (main) facade is a symmetrical elevation with a center entrance and flanking two over two sash windows. The heavily molded four-panel door is framed by sidelights and a three-light transom. The windows are flanked by louvered shutters. Lighting the second floor are three 2/2 sash windows, and the cross-gable is pierced by a Gothic arched 2/2 sash window. The eaves to the roof are extended with sloped soffits. Stuccoed brick stove stacks rise from each gable end. A turned post front porch covers the first floor, and it is trimmed with sawn corner brackets and a turned baluster handrail.

The east and west gable ends are essentially alike with windows on each floor flanking the interior end stove stacks.

(Continued on insert)

Covering a large portion of the north (rear) elevation is the old two-story service wing detailed in the same manner as the main house. An interior stuccoed stack rises from the gable end.

The center stair hall separates two rooms on both floors, while an additional small room is located at the head of the stairs. The woodwork throughout the house remains relatively well preserved. The Victorian period stair is distinguished by a heavily turned newel post with a ball finial, a molded handrail, turned balusters, and a molded stringer. A small closet is located below the stair and is enclosed with a four-panel door with Victorian period latch. Four-panel doors open into the adjacent rooms which are fitted with mantels and molded baseboards. The mantels have fluted pilasters topped by bulls-eye blocks. The frieze is decorated with raised panels and a center bulls-eye. A plain mantel shelf is supported by simply curved brackets.

The second floor is plainly finished with an unheated small room at the head of the stair and modest-sized bedrooms to each side. A third bedroom is located above the old kitchen.

The old kitchen, now a utility room, is fitted with a plain post and lintel mantel, and a beaded board door cupboard is located to the left of the mantel..

The modern living room and kitchen additions were attached within the last twenty-five years and are undistinguished architecturally..

Period Areas of Significance— prehistoric archeology-prehistoric 1400–1499 archeology-historic 1500–1599 agriculture 1600–1699 X architecture 1700–1799 art X 1800–1899 commerce 1900– communications		heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlemen industry invention	landscape architecture law literature military music it philosophy politics/government	religion cup science cup sculpture cup social/ humanitarian cup theater cup transportation cup other (specify)
Specific dates		Builder/Architect		
aı App1	icable Criteria: _A nd/or icable Exception: _A 1 of Significance:			

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

The Russell house is a relatively well-preserved Victorian period dwelling with a period porch, doors, windows, and interior woodwork. The center cross-gable is lighted by a typical Gothic-arched window. This modest center hall, single-pile house is a common form for the third quarter of the nineteenth century and is found repeatedly throughout St. Michaels. Like many other houses from the same era, the Russell house is a good example with simple period details which contributes to the overall significance of East Chestnut Street as well as the town.

History and Support

The chain of title for the Russell house indicates a structure was erected shortly after Jasper Y Tarr bought part of Lot 58 for \$50 from Oliver and Rachel Fairbank in 1872 (Deed Book 78/228). Three years later Jasper Tarr sold the same property to Thomas L. Dawson for \$500, which strongly suggest the improvement of the property between 1872 and 1875 (Deed Book 207/149). Marion and Virginia Russell acquired the house and lot in 1963 from the estate of Owen C. Blades (Deed Book 390/40).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-578

10.	Geograph	ical Data				
Quadran	of nominated property gle name erences do NOT co	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	erences		Quadrang	le scale
AZone		Northing	BZo	ne Eastir	ng	Northing
C E G			D F H			
Verbal I	boundary description	n and justification				
List all	states and counties	for properties ove	erlapping state o	or county i	boundaries	
state		code	county	5. 9	:	code
state		code	county			code
11.	Form Pre	pared By		.		
name/titl	e Paul Touart	Architectual H	istorian			<i>2</i> .
organiza	tion Historic St.	Michaels		date	4/22/85	
street &				telephon	e	
city or to	own St. Wichael	2		state	MD = 21	663

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS - BAY HUNDRED HISTORIC EUILDINGS SURVEY

LOCATION: 215 East Chestnut Street

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER 58 B-C (Braddock, Thompson, Harrison)

VOL. 390 PAGE 40 DATE MADE 1963 PRICE 3200 (high bid) OVC; cm; specie

FROM: Estate of Owen C Blades (Henry P Turner, Extr)

TO: Marion V and M Virginia Russell

NOTES: (Include at least one description from a deed which will definitely locate the property. Also include here the reference - if given - to the previous deed or will, etc. which shows how the seller - "FROM" - acquired the property.)

Parcel 1. Begin at stone, SW corner of Jesse H Bloodsworth (#59 on town plat); then west with Chestnut 38' to lot 58 (Rachel Fairbank, now Thomas H Willing); with Willing 60' to lot 57 (heirs of T H Lambdin); then to NW corner of lot 59; with 59, 60' to the beginning. Conveyed to John H Blades by Thos L Dawson and Sarah E Dawson 99/382, 1884 and from John H Blades to Owen C Blades by will 26/218, 1930.

Parcel 2. Begin at a stone between parcel 1 and this lot; run with Chestnut Street west 38' to Rachel Fairbank; then north with Fairbank 60' to T H Lambdin heirs; east with Lambdin line 38' to Blades; south with Blades to the beginning. Conveyed to Owen C Blades by Alice B Willen, 207/149, 1926.

Deed mentions a "small two-story frame dwelling".

Was the house or other buildings specifically mentioned in this deed ? Yes; No.

LOCATION: Part of original lot #58, foot of Chestnut Street.

Parcel /.

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER 58-C (Braddock, Thompson, Harrison)

VOL. 99 PAGE 382 DATE MADE 1884 PRICE \$450 OVC; cm; specie

FROM: Thomas L and Sarah Dawson to John H Blades

To: John H Blades

NOTES: (Include at least one description from a deed which will definitely locate the property. Also include here the reference - if given - to the previous deed or will, etc. Which shows how the seller - "FROM" - acquired the property.)

Corner Of Jesse H Bloodsworth (#59) west with Chestnut street to #58 belonging to Rachel Fairbank and a part of which was conveyed by her to John P Jackson, now held by Thomas K Willing, 38 feet. Thence with Willing lot 60 feet to lot #57 (heirs of Thomas H Lambdin) then east with #57 38 feet to NW corner of lot #59 then with lot #59 South 60 ft to beginning.

Same lot conveyed to Thomas L Dawson by Jasper Y Tarr 1875 (81/382)

Was the house or other buildings specifically mentioned in this deed ? Yes; No.

LOCATION:

Foot of Chestnut Street, North Side.

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER 58 C (Braddock, Thompson, Harrison)

VOL. 81 PAGE 383 DATE MADE 30 Oct 1875 PRICE OVC; cm; specie

FROM: THOMAS S AND SARAH E DAWSON

~ TO:

WORKINGMAN'S BUILDING & LOAN ASSN OF ST MICHAELS

NOTES: (Include at least one description from a deed which will definitely locate the property. Also include here the reference - if given - to the previous deed or will, etc. which shows how the seller - "FROM" - acquired the property.)

Begin at stone on SW corner of Jesse Bloodsworth numbered 59 on town plat; West with Chestnut Street to #58 belonging to Rachel Fairbank 38'; then with line of Jackson's lot 60' to #57 (T H Lambdin) then East with lot 38' to NW corner of #59; with 59 to beginning.

Pay \$1.16 weekly every Saturday night for 10 years.

Building must be kept insured for at least \$300.

Was the house or other buildings specifically mentioned in this deed ? Yes; No.

LOCATION: Foot of Chestnut Street.

Part of lot between #58 and #59, un-numbered.

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER 58 C (Braddock, Thompson, Harrison)

VOL. <u>61</u> PAGE <u>382</u> DATE MADE <u>1875</u> PRICE \$500 OVC; cm; specie

FROM: JASPER Y TARR

TO: THOMAS L DAWSON

NOTES: (Include at least one description from a deed which will definitely locate the property. Also include here the reference - if given - to the previous deed or will, etc. which shows how the seller - "FROM" - acquired the property.)

Same description as 99/382

Conveyed to Jasper Y Tarr by Oliver Fairbank & Rachel F, Mrs Tarr 1872

Was the house or other buildings specifically mentioned in this deed ?XXXX. No.

CRIGINAL LOT NUMBER 58 C (Braddock, Thompson, Harrison)

VOL. 78 PAGE 228 DATE MADE 1872 PRICE \$50 OVC; cm; specie

FROM: OLIVER FAIRBANK AND WIFE RACHEL (formerly Rachel Lednum)

and Lydia Tarr, widow and Rachel's mother who had dower rights

TO: JASPER Y TARR

NOTES: (Include at least one description from a deed which will definitely locate the property. Also include here the reference - if given - to the previous deed or will, etc. which shows how the seller - "FROM" - acquired the property.)

Begin at SW corner of Jesse K Bloodsworth #59 run on Chestnut Street 38 ft to #58 belonging to Rachel Fairbank. Then 60 ft to #57 (Thos H Lambdin) then East with #57 38 ft to the corner of #59 then 60 ft to beginning.

This is the first deed to this property. References to Lot 59 are confusing. There were only 58 lots in the "original" St. Michaels and a plat of the town showing lot $59^{\circ NNSIDE}$ has not been located. The "Certificate of Survey" made in 1804 and the original plat both show lot number 59 on opposite side of Chestnut Street now numbered 216. John Dorgan, owner of lot 58 was one of the Town commissioners at the time of the survey.

Was the house or other buildings specifically mentioned in this deed ? Yes; No.

LOCATION: Foot of Chestnut Street, N side 215 E CHESTNUT STREET (part)

Small lot between # 58 and # 3

Parcel 2

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER XXX (Braddock, Thompson, Harrison)

58 B

VOL. 207 PAGE 149 DATE MADE 1926 PRICE \$5 & OVC OVC; cm; specie

FROM: ALICE V WILLEN

TO: OWEN C BLADES

NOTES: (Include at least one description from a deed which will definitely locate the property. Also include here the reference - if given - to the previous deed or will, etc. which shows how the seller - "FROM" - acquired the property.)

Begin at stone placed as boundary between this lot and John H Blades (formerly Thomas H Dawson) at SW corner Blades land on Chestnut Street/run with street west 38 ft to Rachel Fairbank then North with Fairbank 60 ft to Thomas H W Lambdin heirs; East with Lambdin 38 ft to Blades; then South 60 ft to beginning.

Same land conveyed to Willen by Joseph Harrington, Treasurer, Talbot County, 1919 (182/344)

When Owen C Blades acquired this lot he now owned both halves of 215 E Chestnut Street. He had inherited the other half from his father, John H Blades.

Was the house or other buildings specifically mentioned in this deed ? Yes; No.

LOCATION: Foot of Chestnut Street, N side.

Small-lot between #58 and #59.

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER 58 B (Braddock, Thompson, Harrison) This was original lot of Braddock's St Michaels. Has been divided into three parts of which the lowest lot is a new number 59; the lot here described is the center of the three.

VOL. 182 PAGE 344 DATE MADE 1919 PRICE \$180 OVC; cm; specie

FROM: Joeseph B HARRINGTON, "former Tresurer" of Talbot County

TO: ALICE V WILLEN, widow

NOTES: (Include at least one description from a deed which will definitely locate the property. Also include here the reference - if given - to the previous deed or will, etc. which shows how the seller - "FROM" - acquired the property.)

Deed states that there were unpaid taxes of \$3.24 from 1915. Alice Willen buy lot a tax sale for \$180. Is described as being on North side Chestnut Street, adjoining J W Blades on East, Mollie Lambdin omn North, and Rachel Fairbank on West.

Was the house or other buildings specifically mentioned in this deed ? Yes; No.

RESEARCHER___

LOCATION:	Foot o	f Chest	nut Stre e t	, North	side (see	separa	te desc	ription)
ORIGINAL LO	T NUMBER	58 B	(<u>Braddock.</u>	.Thompson,	Harris	on)			
VOL. 92	PAGE	77	DATE MADE	1881	PRICE_	\$	240	OVC; cm;	specie
FROM: JOHI	N P JAC	KSON							
TO: THOM	MAS D W	ILLEN							

NOTES: (Include at least one description from a deed which will definitely locate the property. Also include here the reference - if given - to the previous deed or will, etc. which shows how the seller - "FROM" - acquired the property.)

Same description as 207/149

Land which descended to Rachel Fairbank from her father, JOHN LEDNUM Rachel and Oliver Fairbank conveyed to Jackson on 79/2k5x 245 1873

Was the house or other buildings specifically mentioned in this deed ? Yes; No.

			•	
LOCATION: Foot of	Chestnut Street	North side	see separate	e description
		•		
ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER	58 B (Braddock,	Thompson, Ha	rrison)	
VOL. 79 PAGE 24	6 DATE MADE	1873 P	RICE	OVC; cm; specie
FROM: John P Jacks	on			
(mortgage)				
To: Workingmen's B	uilding & Loan	Agan of St I	Michael a	• •
To: Workingmen's B	arraing & boan	ASSII OI DU	MICHAETS	
NOTES: (Include at least property. Also include which shows how the self	st one description here the reference ller - "FROM" - ac	from a deed we - if given -	which will definite to the previous	Itely locate the deed or will, etc
Is ame propert; INSURED FOR \$\frac{1}{20}	y described in DO. Payments a	79/245. MOF	RTAGEE MUST KE	EP BUILDING
Mortgage was fo	or \$200. Release g	iven 7 June 18	81.	
				•
				- -
Was the house or other	buildings specifi	cally mentioned	d in this deed ?	Yes. No
		-		Yes; No.
		RESEA	RCHER	

HISTORIC ST. MICHAELS - BAY HUNDRED HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

Foot of Chestnut Street, North Side see separate description.

Part of 215 E Chestnut Street.

ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER 58 B (Eraddock, Thompson, Harrison)

VOL. 79 PAGE 245 DATE MADE 1873 PRICE \$300 OVC; cm; specie

FROM: RACHEL AND OLIVER FAIRBANK

Rachel is daughter of John Lednum who bought 58 (A, B, C) from Farmers' Bank, 50/127, 1832

TO: JOHN P JACKSON

NOTES: (Include at least one description from a deed which will definitely locate the property. Also include here the reference - if given - to the previous deed or will, etc. which shows how the seller - "FROM" - acquired the property.)

Begin at boundary stone placed to mark divission of this property and Jasper Y Tarr on SW corner of Tarr's lot. Run West on Chestnut to Fairbanks 38 ft then North 60 ft to Thomas Lambdin then East 38 feet to Tarr; with Tarr to be minning. Was until recently occupied by John Tarr, now deceased.

This would indicate that there was a house (rented ?) on the property. Confirmed by following mortgage (79/246).

This is the first deed to this parcel.

Was the house or other buildings specifically mentioned in this deed ? Yes; No.

YEAR: 1963 VOL: 390 PAGE: 40

FROM: Estate of Owen C Blades (henry P Turner, Extr) PRICE: \$3200

TO : Marion V and M Virginia Russell

NOTES: Parcel 1. Begin SW corner Jesse H Bloodsworth (#59 on Town Plat); W with Chestnut 38' to lot 58 (Rachel Fairbank, now Thomas H Willing); with Willing 60' to lot 57 (T H Lambdin heirs); then 60' to NW corner 59; with #59 60' to the beginning.Conveyed to John H Blades by Thos L Dawson 1884, 99/382. From John H Blades to Owen C Blades by Will, 1930, 26/218. Parcel 2. Begins at stone between Parcel 1 and this lot; run W with Chestnut St 38' to Rachel Fairbank; N with Fairbank 60' to T H Lambdin heirs; E with Lambdin line 38' to Blades; S with Blades to beginning. Conveyed to Owen C Blades by Alice B Willen 1926, 207/149.

The deed mentions a "small two-story frame dwelling".

YEAR: 1884 VOL: 99 PAGE: 382

FROM: Thomas L and Sarah Dawson PRICE: \$450

TO: John H Blades

NOTES: Begins at stone SW corner Jesse H Bloodsworth (#59); run W with Chestnut St to #58 (Rachel Fairbank and part conveyed by her to John P Jackson, now Thomas K Willing) 38'; with Willing 60' to lot no.57 (heirs Thomas H Lambdin); then E with #57, 38' to NW corner lot 59; With #59, S 60' to the beginning. Conveyed to Thomas L Dawson by Jasper Y Tarr 1875, 81/382.

YEAR: 1875 VOL: 81 PAGE: 382 FROM: Jasper Y Tarr PRICE: \$500

TO : Thomas L Dawson

NOTES: Same description as 1884, 99/382

Thomas & Sarah Dawson got a mortgage for \$300 from the Workingman's Building

& Loan Assn of St Michaels, 1875, 81/383.

Conveyed to Jasper Y Tarr by Oliver & Rachel Fairbank and Lydia Tarr 1872, 78/228.

YEAR: 1872 VOL: 78 PAGE: 228

FROM: Oliver & Rachel Fairbank (formerly Rachel Lednum) PRICE: \$50

and Lydia Tarr (Rachel's mother)

TO : Jasper Y Tarr

NOTES: Same description as 1884, 99/382. This is the first deed to this

property (Parcel 1 of 1963, 390/40)

YEAR: 1832 VOL: 50 PAGE: 127

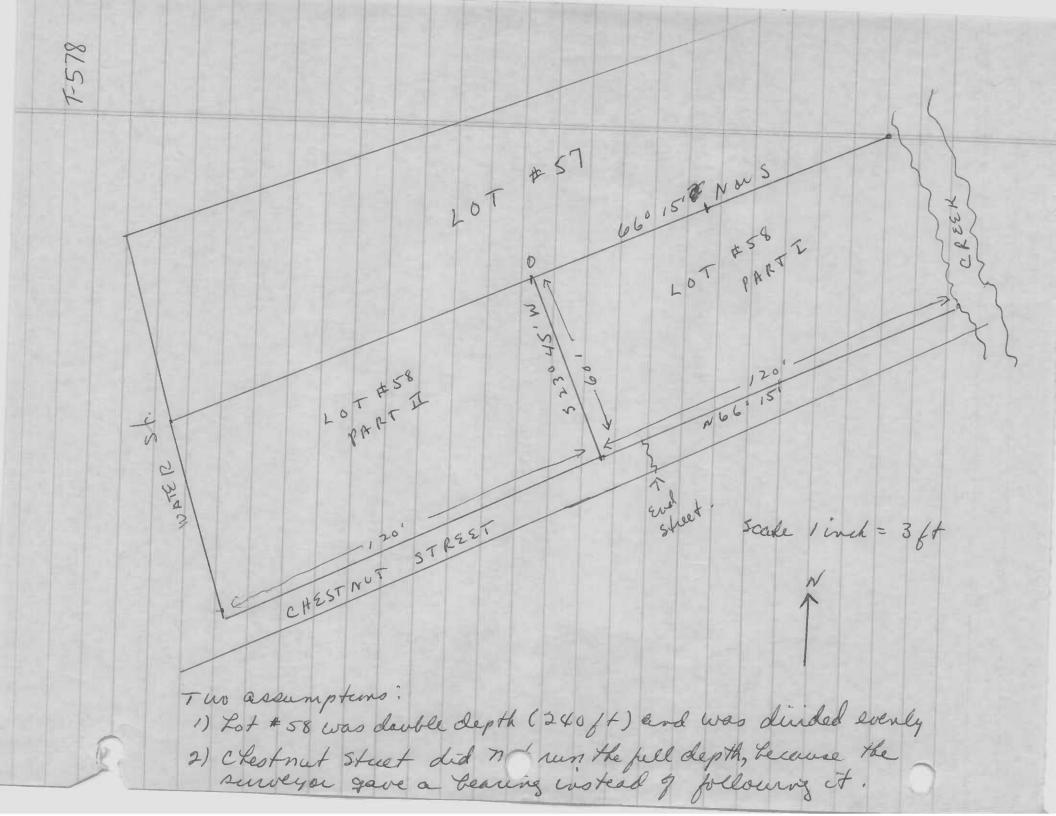
FROM: Farmers Bank PRICE:

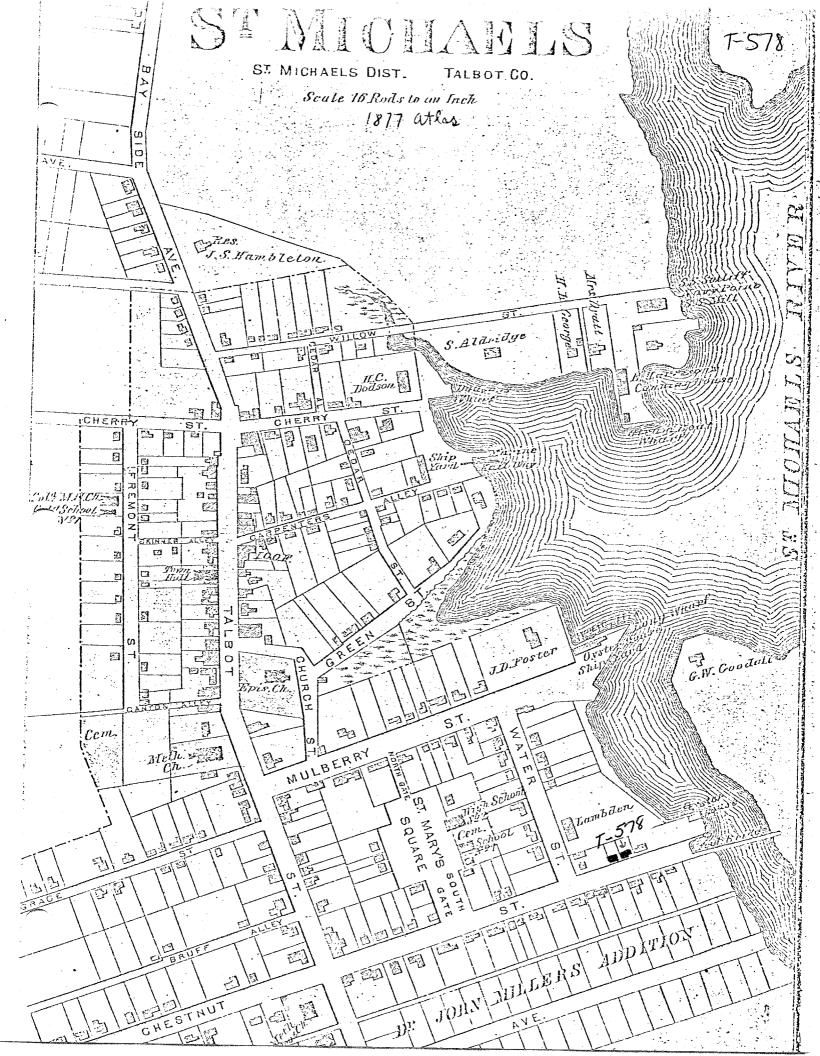
TO: John Lednum (Ledenham)

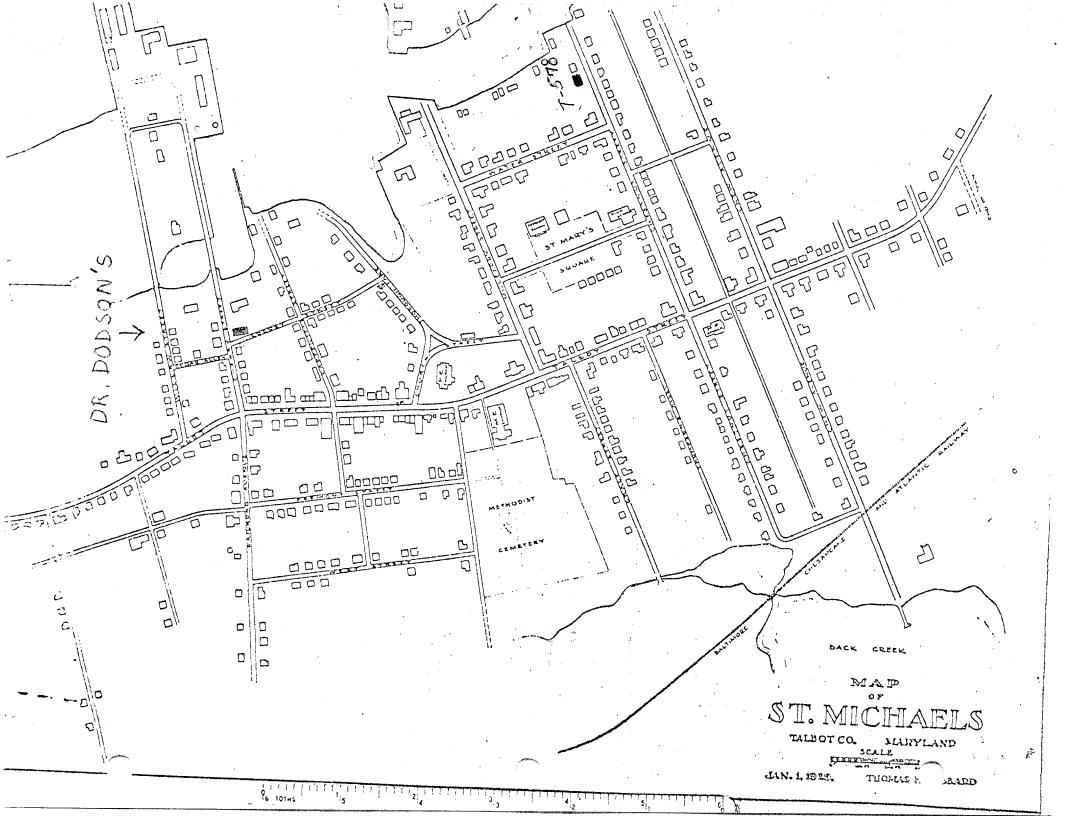
NOTES: Part of lot 58. Land was conveyed by Thomas Groves, Innkeeper to John Dorgin, Blacksmith in 1784.Begins at SW corner of lot 57 on Water Street; run with Water Street 60' to Chestnut Street; with Chestnut to that part of lot 58 purchased by Dorgin from Jonathan Spencer in 1782; then with that lot to 57; with 57 to beginning. Ground was mortgaged to Farmers Bank in 1808 by John Dorgin, Shipwright. Foreclosure and sale in 1831. Farmers Bank was high bidder.

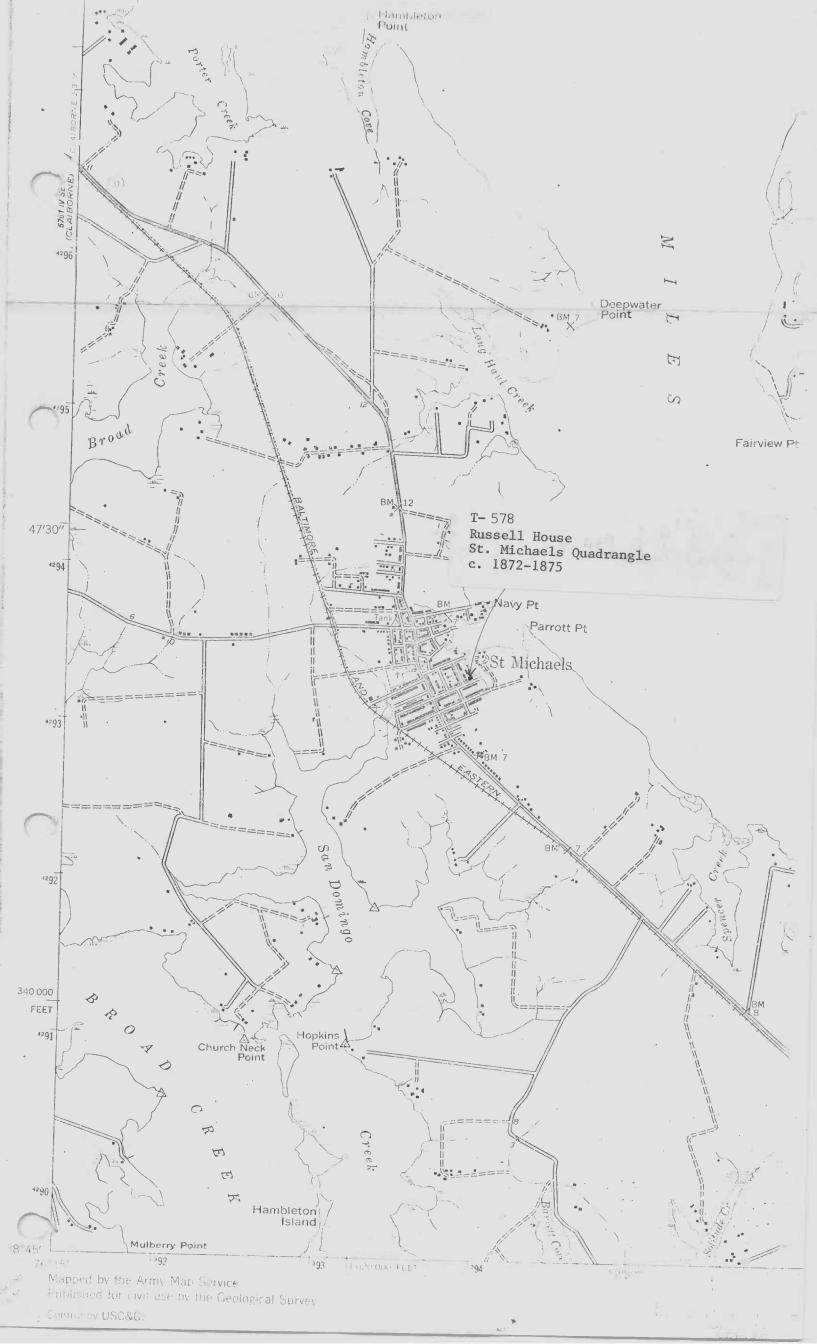
John Lednum married Lydia Sewell in 1833. They had a daughter, Rachel who married Oliver Fairbank in 1859. Lydia Lednum, widow married John Tarr in 1844.

This lot consisted of the entire upper half of lot 58. When the lot was purchased by John Dorgin in 1784 he then owned the entire lot 58. The house on the corner of Chestnut and Water Streets is alleged to have been built by Oliver Fairbank (see above) according to Mrs. Lena Fairbank who lives on the other side of Water Street. She is in her late eighties and Oliver Fairbank was her grandfather.











215 CHESTNUT STREET T-57%
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
Southwest Elevation
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



215 CHESTNUT STREET T-578
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
South Elevation
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/Md. Historical Trust



215 CHESTNUT STREET T-578
St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland
South Elevation
4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer
NEG/MD. Historical Trust



T-378 215 CHESTNUT STREET St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland Mantel 4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

NEG/MD. Historical Trust



215 CHESTNUT STREET T-578 St. Michaels, Talbot County, Maryland Stair Newel Post

Stair-Newel Post 4/85, Paul Touart, Photographer NEG/MD. Historical Trust